

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-17. (CANCELLED)

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of activating an alert upon an occurrence of one of a plurality of events and generating and updating a trigger, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a trigger based upon historical occurrences of at least one health symptom experienced by a plurality of patients, wherein the step of generating is performed by a main computer;

monitoring occurrences of the at least one health symptom within a time window;

comparing the occurrences of the at least one health symptom within the time window to the trigger, wherein the step of comparing the occurrences is performed by the main computer;

activating an alert indicating the occurrence of an event when the occurrences of the at least one health symptom exceed the trigger; and

updating the trigger at an update frequency, wherein the step of updating includes adding new occurrences to the historical occurrences and dropping old occurrences from the historical occurrences, wherein the step of updating the trigger is performed by the main computer.

19-47. (CANCELLED)

48. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 47-18 further including the step of receiving the occurrences of the ~~plurality of health symptoms~~ at least one health symptom from an emergency services dispatcher.

49. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 48 further including the step of receiving the occurrences of the at least one health symptom ~~plurality of health symptoms~~ from a dispatcher computer.

50. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 48 further including the step of receiving the occurrences of the at least one health symptom ~~plurality of health symptoms~~ from a first geographical area.

51. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 50 further including the step of accumulating occurrences of the ~~plurality of health symptoms~~ at least one health symptom in a second geographical area which includes the first geographical area and which is larger than the first geographical area.

52. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 50 wherein information about the ~~plurality of health symptoms~~ at least one health symptom is provided at a variable time.

53. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 47-18 further including the steps of receiving a geographic location of each of the occurrences of the ~~plurality of health symptoms~~ at least one health symptom and associating the geographical location with each of the occurrences of the ~~plurality of health symptoms~~ at least one health symptom.

54. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 53 further including the step of displaying the geographical location of each of the occurrences of the ~~plurality of health symptoms~~ at least one health symptom on a display.

55. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 47-18 further including the step of adjusting a first trigger ~~of the plurality of triggers~~ to generate a new ~~first~~ trigger and then comparing the new ~~first~~ trigger to the occurrences.

56. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 47-18 wherein the ~~triggers are~~ trigger is a statistical variations variation of historical values of the occurrences of the ~~plurality of health symptoms~~ at least one health symptom.

57. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 47-18 further including the step of weighting the ~~plurality of health symptoms~~ at least one health symptom relative to one another.

58. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 47-18 further including the step of calculating the ~~plurality of trigger~~ trigger prior to the step of comparing the occurrences of the at least one health symptoms to the ~~plurality of trigger~~ trigger.

59. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 47-18 wherein the ~~plurality of health symptoms~~ at least one health symptom include headache, fever, fainting, clammy, unconscious, bleeding, vomiting and nausea.

60. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 47-18 wherein the events include a biological attack and a chemical attack.

61-63. (CANCELLED)

64. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 62 wherein the ~~plurality of trigger~~ trigger is based upon criteria, the method further including the steps of changing criteria of the ~~plurality of trigger~~ trigger and recalculating the ~~plurality of trigger~~ trigger based upon the changed criteria and the historical occurrences.

65. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 64 wherein the at least one health symptom includes a plurality of symptoms, and the criteria for the ~~plurality of trigger~~ trigger includes the plurality of symptoms, the step of changing the criteria including the step of adding a symptom to the ~~plurality of symptoms~~ at least one health symptom.

66. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 64 wherein the criteria for the ~~plurality of trigger~~ trigger includes the plurality of symptoms and a statistical relationship to the historical occurrences, the step of changing the criteria including the step of changing the statistical relationship to the historical occurrences.

67. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 47-18 further including the step of adjusting a sensitivity of the plurality of ~~trigger~~trigger.

68. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 67 wherein the step of adjusting the sensitivity of the plurality of ~~trigger~~trigger is based on a national threat level.

69. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 47-18 further including the steps of contacting an emergency services dispatcher to report the at least one health symptom and then inputting the at least one health symptom into a dispatcher computer.

70-91. (CANCELLED)